(b) whether any effort is being made to encourage students at 10th level to take science as their career; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA] : (a) to (c) The Government has always placed a high priority on promoting Science and Technology in the country and the need for nurturing talented and brilliant science students so as to encourage them to take research as a career. The Kishore Vaigyanik Prothsahan Yojana (KVPY), launched by Department of Science & Technology during 1999-2000, targets the young science students at the school and college level. The Yojana aims to encourage students of basic sciences, engineering and medicine to take up research career in these areas.

Schemes to Rehabilitate Sex Workers

2062. SHRI P.N. SIVA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to start some schemes for employment and income generation for the sex workers, in order to encourage them to reintegrate into the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to eradicate child prostitution and their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The scheme proposes measures for social and economic rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances including trafficked women or girls rescued from brothels or run away from other places.

(c) Advisory Committees on Child Prostitution have been set up at Central and State levels to address the issues in cooperation with NGO representatives. An amendment to the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is underway for making punishment for traffickers more stringent. A network of Short Stay Homes has also been set up for protection and rehabilitation of the victims of prostitution.